

MUHUMMED THE NATURAL SUCCESSOR TO CHRIST

By Ahmed Deedat

CHAPTER 1

The final Messenger

**"... AND GIVING GLAD TIDINGS
OF A MESSENGER
TO COME AFTER ME,
WHOSE NAME SHALL BE AHMED."**

وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي
مِنْ بَعْدِي
اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ
(SÚRA ŞAFF) Holy Qur'an 61:6

MULTI-FACETED SUCCESSION

Successions are of many kinds like the birthright of the **"first-born"** as in Jewish law. Or the ascending of the eldest son or daughter to the kingly throne. Or by election, to select a candidate by the vote of the majority. Or Theologically, an appointment by Divine Decree of God's chosen Messengers. Like the call of Abraham, Moses, Jesus or Muhammed (May the Peace and Blessings of God be upon them all) who were appointed or **"anointed"**² in consecration to their office.

Muhummed's (pbuh) succession to Jesus Christ (pbuh) is multifaceted.

1. Chronologically, in history as a sequence of event in time.
2. By being Chosen³ by God.
3. In the fulfilment of the prophecies of his predecessors, and but not in the least...
4. By bringing the Guidance of God to perfection ' **"For he will Guide you into all Truth."** said. *Jesus Christ*

¹. In this book as well as in my other publications, I quote extensively from the Arabic Qur'ân not only for blessings or adornment. It presents a golden opportunity for my learned brethren to memorize these quotations with its meaning and to share their knowledge with others.

2. **"ANOINTED:"** or appointed; Hebrew word **"Messiah."** See my book - **"Christ in Islam,"** for fuller explanation.

3. **"CHOSEN:"** Arabic – **Mustafa.** A title of the Prophet of Islam.

HISTORICALLY

The Holy Prophet Moses preceded Jesus Christ (pbuh) by some 1300 years and Muhammed (pbuh) succeeded to that high office vacated by Jesus some six centuries later.

It was the 12 of **Rabi I.**, in the year of the Elephant, or the 29th of August 570 of the Christian Era¹ that Muhammed the Praiseworthy, to whom all praise is due, was born in the sacred city of Makkah in pagan Arabia. His people the Quraish remembered the year of his birth as the **"Era of the Elephant"**, because just two months before the birth of the child Abraha al-Ashram, the Abyssinian viceroy of Yemen had attacked the sacred sanctuary at Makkah at the head of his troops riding a huge African elephant. A terrifying sight never to be erased from their memory and a still more shocking end to the invasion — the miraculous destruction of Abraha and his army as recorded in **Sura Fil** or the Elephant —

Seest thou not how thy Lord dealt with the Companions of the Elephant?

Did He not make their treacherous plan go astray?

And He sent against them flights of Birds,

Striking them with stones of baked clay.

Then did He make them like an empty field of stalks and straw,(of which the corn) has been eaten up

(SURA FIL) Holy Qur'ân 105:1-5

¹ Always use A.C. (After Christ) or C.E. (Christian Era) and not A.D. as Muslims often do unthinkingly.

GOD'S OWN STANDARDS

God Almighty chooses His Own Messengers, He uses His Own Standards although we may not always understand the wisdom of it. Paul cries the anomaly -

For the Jews require a sign (miracles to convince) and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

(HOLY BIBLE) I Corinthians 1: 22

But worldly wise as Paul was, he found that his wisdom was "a **stumbling-block**" to the Jews and **"foolishness"** to the Greeks.

God chose Moses (pbuh) a man who was a fugitive from justice and a stutterer. The Holy Bible calls him a man with **"uncircumcised lips."** (Exodus 6: 12).

Despite his difficulties when commissioned to confront Pharaoh, the greatest tyrant of the age, Moses (pbuh) cries out to the God of Mercy —

(Moses) said: "O my Lord! expand for me my breast;"¹

Make my task easy for me;

"And remove the impediment from my speech,

"So that they may understand what I have to say:

"And give me a Minister from my family,

"Aaron, my brother; "Add to my strength through him, "And make him share my task:

"That we may celebrate Thy praise without stint,

"And remember Thee without stint:

'For Thou art He that (ever) regardeth us. (God) said: "Granted is thy prayer, O Moses!"

(SURA TA'HA) Holy Qur'ân 20:25-56

1. Meaning – give me courage, make me bold.

WHY "SUPPOSED"?

Then comes Jesus (pbuh) who was chosen by God. According to Christian teachings, he was a carpenter and the son of a carpenter, with a dubious genealog

And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed)¹ ***the son of Joseph...***

(HOLY BIBLE) Luke 3: 25

Acknowledged today by a thousand million Muslims that Jesus Christ (pbuh) was born miraculously — without any male intervention; the followers of Christ created two separate genealogies for a man who had no genealogy. Between the Gospels of Matthew and Luke they give this mighty Messenger of God sixty-six fathers and grandfathers. And of these two separate lists only one name is common to these two lists and that is of Joseph the Carpenter, who does not Fit in anywhere because, as Luke records above, he was only the **"SUPPOSED"** father of Jesus.²

1. The words you see here in brackets are the exact replica from the King James and the Roman Catholic Versions of the phrase – "(as was supposed)" brackets and all.
2. Consult – "Is the Bible God's Word?" for a fuller explanation of these anomalies.

EVEN BISHOPS DOUBT

In a "SHOCK SURVEY OF ANGLICAN BISHOPS" in June 1984 it was revealed that 31 of their 39 Bishops thought that **"Christ's miracles, the virgin birth and the resurrection might not have happened exactly as described in the Bible."**

In deference to the Bishops of the Church of England (the "Anglicans") the Church of Scotland most respectfully omitted any reference to the **"Virgin Birth"** from its most recent publication **"A STATEMENT OF FAITH."** The topic of the miraculous conception of Jesus (pbuh) is getting increasingly hotter for Western Christianity to handle as you see here:



AND GOD CHOSE JESUS (PBUH)

Jesus Christ (pbuh) though spiritually rich in wisdom, light and truth; philosophised light-heartedly about the beggars of the world, when he said:

There came unto him (Jesus) a woman having an albaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head...

But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?

For this ointment might have been sold For much, and given to the poor.

... he (Jesus) said unto them ... For ye have the poor always with you, but (poor) me ye have not always.

(HOLY BIBLE) Matthew 26: 7-11

But when destitution stared him in the face. When poverty, penury and need touched his own dear self; he cried pathetically:

And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the son of man (referring to himself) hath not where to lay his head.

(HOLY BIBLE) Matthew 8: 20 also repeated in Luke 9: 58

And yet God chose him (Jesus pbuh): Unique and inscrutable are Thy ways O Lord!

M-U-S-T-A-F-A THE CHOSEN ONE

It is He Who sent amongst the unlettered a messenger from among themselves, to rehearse to them His Signs, to sanctify them, and to instruct them in Scripture and Wisdom, — although they had been, before, in manifest error;-

(SURA JUMUA) Holy Qur'ân 62: 2

Amazing as it may seem, I am not amazed anymore! For this is His way — He chooses an **Ummi**¹ non-literate Prophet for an **Ummi** illiterate nation.

"A POOR SHEPHERD PEOPLE, ROAMING UNNOTICED IN ITS DESERTS SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD: A HERO-PROPHET WAS SENT DOWN TO THEM WITH A WORD THEY COULD BELIEVE: SEE, THE UNNOTICED BECOMES WORLD-NOTABLE, THE SMALL HAS GROWN WORLD-GREAT; WITHIN ONE CENTURY AFTERWARDS, ARABIA IS AT GRENADA (Spain) ON THIS HAND, AT DELHI (India) ON THAT; -GLANCING IN VALOUR AND SPLENDOUR AND THE LIGHT OF GENIUS, ARABIA SHINES THROUGH LONG AGES OVER A GREAT SECTION OF THE WORLD. BELIEF IS GREAT, LIFE-GIVING. THE HISTORY OF A NATION BECOMES FRUITFUL, SOUL ELEVATING, GREAT, SO SOON AS IT BELIEVES. THESE ARABS, THE MAN MAHOMET, AND THAT ONE CENTURY, -IS IT NOT AS IF A SPARK HAD FALLEN, ONE SPARK, ON A WORLD OF WHAT SEEMED BLACK UNNOTICEABLE SAND; BUT LO, THE SAND PROVES EXPLOSIVE POWDER, BLAZES HEAVEN HIGH FROM DELHI TO GRENADA! I SAID, THE

GREAT MAN WAS ALWAYS AS LIGHTNING OUT OF HEAVEN; THE REST OF MEN WAITED FOR HIM LIKE FUEL, AND THEN THEY TOO WOULD FLAME."

Thus concluded the speech of Thomas Carlyle, one of the greatest thinkers of the past century. It was Friday, the 8th of May 1840. His theme — **"The Hero as Prophet"** His audience: were Anglicans — English Christians.

1. UMMI: "Unlettered." **"One other circumstance we must not forget: that he had no school-learning; of the thing we call school-learning; none at all."** Thomas Carlyle in his **"HEROES AND HERO-WORSHIP"**

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

God chooses His Messengers and God chooses His People, In the realm of the Spirit no nation was as favoured as the Jews and yet Moses (pbuh) is made to bewail against his own people —

Ye have been rebellious against the Lord from the day I knew you.

(HOLY BIBLE) Deutonomy 9: 24

In this last will and testament of Moses (pbuh) the Israelites frustrate their "meek and gentle" Messenger who is forced to rail against their continual stubborn resistance and arrogant attitudes to God's guidance —

For I knew thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the lord; and how much more after my death?

(HOLY BIBLE) Deutonomy 51:27

Alas how true! I am not going to philosophise on God's choice. But in the very next chapter the fire of God's anger is kindled to a blaze and He decries the Jews -

They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they (the Jews) have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are Not A People; I will provoke them to anger with a Foolish Nation.

(HOLY BIBLE) Deutonomy 32:21¹

1. Emphasis are mine.

JEWS SUBSTITUTED

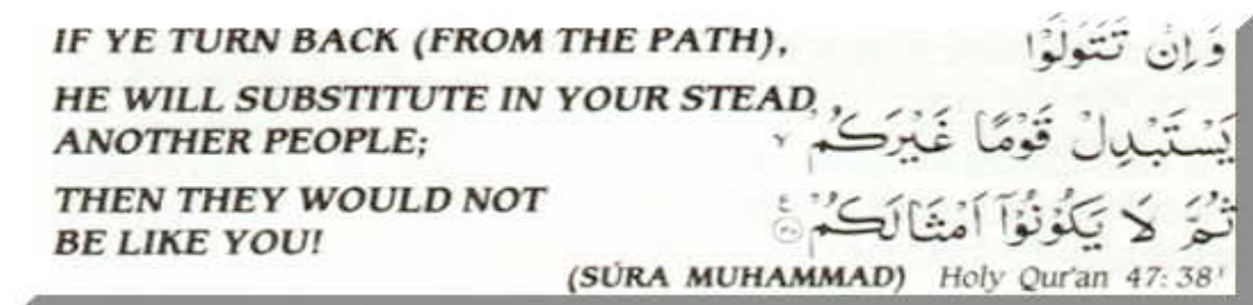
Anyone with a modicum of Scriptural knowledge will be able i guess who in the eyes of these arrogant, racist Jews is **"not-a people"** — a non-entity and **"a foolish nation"** if not the Ishmaelite cousins — the Arabs who in the words of Thomas Carlyle have been **"ROAMING UNNOTICED IN ITS DESERT SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD."!?**

THE ARABS. Alexander the Great passed them by; the Persian. passed them by; the Egyptians passed them by; and the Roman; passed them by. It would have been an absolute liability for any nation to conquer and colonise them. But the Creator did not pass them by. He picked them up from the depths of darkness and transformed them into torch-bearers of light and learning to the world. **"I will move them "I will move them (the Jews) to Jealousy"**¹ This jealousy is a cultivated sickness. Remember, Sarah and Hagar the two wives of Abraham (pbuh) — the Friend of God. The jealousy of Sarah was bequeathed to her children and on to nations and tribes yet unborn.

1. If the Romans or the Greeks had displaced the Jews as the "Chosen of God" then the envy would not have been as acute or as intolerable to the Jews. Not so long ago I read a book on the discovery of medicine written by a Jewish medical man. I can unfortunately not remember the name of the author and failed to retrace the book. However, the wordings of the tribute paid by this Jewish author to his Semetic (Arab) cousins have made an indelible impression on my mind. And I quote from memory:

"GOATHERDS AND CAMEL DRIVERS SITTING ON THE THRONE OF THE CAESARS"

Full of spite, venom and sarcasm, but how true! This is what God did and always does. He honours whom He wills. This is what He does to show His Mighty Hand (Power)?



IT IS SURELY ONE OF THE GREATEST MIRACLES OF HISTORY THAT FROM THE BACKWATER OF ARABIA THERE SHOULD HAVE EXPLODED A GROUP OF MEN, COMPANIONS OF A PROPHET, WHO WITHIN THE SPACE OF A FEW BRIEF DECADES WERE ABLE TO CREATE A MAGNIFICENT CIVILISATION EXTENDING FROM THE PYRENEES TO THE GATES OF CHINA

Abdul Wadod Shalabi in "Islam Religion of Life:"

THE LAST WARNING

The foregoing is the exact fulfilment of Jesus Christ's (pbuh), (the last of the great Jewish prophets) own prediction of the displacement of the Jewish race in the spiritual guidance of man. In the words of the Master himself —

Therefore I say unto you (Jews), The Kingdom of God shall be taken away from you (Jews), and shall be given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

(HOLY BIBLE) Matthew 21: 45¹

1. "Kingdom of God:" The honour, the privilege of being God's chosen people to guide mankind — **"Ye (Jews) shall be unto me (God Almighty) a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation."** (Exodus 19:6) This grand commission ended with Jesus (pbuh).

CHAPTER TWO

IN THE WORDS OF THE MASTER

JUST ONE FULL PROPHECY¹

AND REMEMBER, JESUS,
THE SON OF MARY, SAID:

"O CHILDREN OF ISRAEL!
I AM THE MESSENGER OF
GOD (SENT) TO YOU,

CONFIRMING THE LAW
(WHICH CAME) BEFORE ME,

AND GIVING GLAD TIDINGS OF
A MESSENGER
TO COME AFTER ME,

WHOSE NAME SHALL BE AHMED."

وَاذْكُرْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ
يَبْنِيْ اِسْرَءٰىلَ اِنِّىْ رَسُوْلُ
اللهِ اِلَيْكُمْ

مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيِّ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ

وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُوْلٍ يَّاْتِيْ مِنْ بَعْدِيْ

اِسْمُهُ اَحْمَدُ

(SŪRA ṢAFF) Holy Qur'an 61: 6

¹ This site only expounds a single prophecy from the New Testament. See ["What the Bible says about Muhammed \(pbuh\)"](#) for prophecies from the Old Testament.

A COMMON TRAIT

Just a cursory glance, a rapid reading, a hurried look at the previous verse will satisfy the Muslim that Jesus Christ (pbuh) did indeed prophesy the advent of Muhammed (pbuh), the Messenger of God. The Muslim is puzzled at the stubbornness, vanity and tunnel vision of the Christian which prevents him from seeing his own inner light and listening to his conscience so as not to recognise the obvious.

The Christian in turn is puzzled at the hard-hearted obstinacy of the Jews, a nation endowed with such creative genius, which, despite a thousand and one prophecies in their own Bible (the Old Testament) regarding the coming of the **"Messiah,"** are totally incapable of recognising their lord and **"saviour."** Are they both somewhat blind?

No! Neither the Jews nor the Christians are necessarily impervious to truth. The trouble is that we **all** pick up our prejudices from childhood. The American call it being **"programmed"**

Simply reading the verses or listening to lectures and getting that smug satisfaction of being in the know will not help spreading the truth. This is the age of the **"EVERYMAN."**

¹ The age of the professionals is over. It is the duty of every Muslim — man, woman or child to get involved. Each according to his or her capacity. Memorize the above verse with its meaning as well as the quotations preceding and those that follow so that you may feel equipped to share our **Deen** with non-Muslims. There are no short-cuts to **Da'wah** (propagation)!

1. "EVERYMAN:" is a new series of books to equip everyman or woman to learn an art or trade such as – plumbing, pottery, woodwork, etc by studying at home.

PRODUCE YOUR PROOF!

Perhaps this is not the first time you are reading or might have heard about the prophecies in the Jewish and Christian Scriptures regarding the advent of the last and final Messenger of God — Muhammed (pbuh) the Mercy unto all mankind. And perhaps you have at times made some half-hearted and skimpy efforts at suggesting that our ***Nabi-e-Kareem*** was prophesised in the Holy Bible. But when proof was demanded, you simply not able to, because you had not done any home work Remember, there is no substitute for hard work. I believe what I say and I practise what I preach. ***Insha-Allah!***

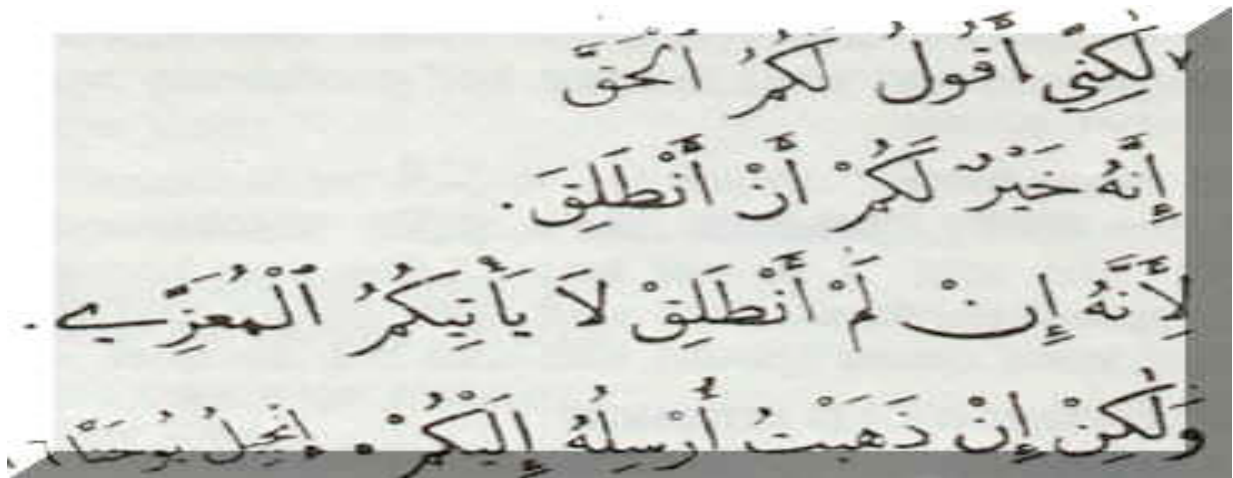
I have personally memorized various selections from the Bible in a dozen different languages, including Arabic and Hebrew. Not for show but because of the openings these snippets of religion create for me in propagating our faith to various language groups. Languages are the keys to people's hearts.

IN THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

Notwithstanding many assurances, I got stranded in Cairo for lack of an entry visa. A kind gentleman from the Al-Azhar, who was trying to help us obtain the relevant documents, got frustrated with the delay and in order to attend to his Friday prayers, handed me and my son Yousuf to a young Egyptian lady, well-groomed in Western attire.

After much effort and time she returned to us with the good news. "Forty dollars," she said. I asked, "For what?" "The visas," she answered. Twenty dollars for me and twenty for my son. "But I am a guest of the Government," I insisted. She said that she knew nothing about it, so I smiled and paid.

From the lady's speech and deportment, I had sensed that she was well-educated and a lady of culture, so undauntedly I asked her again what her name was in my broken Arabic. However, her name was too novel for me to remember. I asked her further: "Are you a Muslim?" She said, "No, I am an Egyptian Christian." This was the opening I was waiting for. I began, "Do you know that before Jesus Christ departed from this world, he told his disciples," and I started to quote, now in meticulous Arabic, a verse from the Arabic Bible, (see next page), which I had memorized for opportunities just like this particular one.



THE TRANSLATION

I had no need to translate the above Arabic to her, because as an Arab she understood the verse perfectly. But for the benefit of those who do not know Arabic I give you its exact equivalent from the English Bible, which I had also taken the trouble to memorize in my spare time. You can create that spare time also if you have true love for Allah's **Deen** and wish to share it with others.

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

(HOLY BIBLE) *John 16:7*

"AL-MOOUZZI" THE COMFORTER

I implore my brethren who can read the Arabic quotation to memorize it together with the English translation above and create opportunities for using it. Learn the verses in conjunction

with other languages that you know. There will be a definite all-round improvement in your fluency, and proficiency in preaching Islam to other people.

The word "**Comforter**" above is "*al-Moouzzi*" in Arabic. I asked the lady, "Who is the "*al-Moouzzi*" of this prophecy?" She said, "do not know," She was honest She did not beat around the bush. So I said that we are told in the Holy Qur'an that Jesus Christ (pbuh) had told his disciples —

**"... AND GIVING GLAD TIDINGS
OF A MESSENGER
TO COME AFTER ME,
WHOSE NAME SHALL BE AHMED."**

وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي
مِنْ بَعْدِي
اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ
(SURA SAFF) Holy Qur'an 61:6

I continued that, *This **Ahmed** is another name for **Muhummed**, and **Muhummed** is **Moouzzi!**" "Very funny," she exclaimed, "these Egyptians" (meaning the Muslim Egyptians) "take us to the cinema, they take us" (meaning Christian women) "to the dance, but no one ever tells us anything about this **Moouzzi!**" Through her Allah **soobha'nahoo-wa-ta'aalaa**, armed me with a fourteen-pound SledgeHammer before leaving Cairo Airport. **Alhumdo'lillah!** And, did I use that SledgeHammer!!

An integrated explanation of Comforter/Moouzzi of John 16: 7 and Ahmed/Muhummed of The Holy Qur'an 61: 6 will be slotted in place when explaining the **Ayat** (the verse) heading this chapter.

BIBLICAL CONFIRMATION

Remember, that in the sixth century of the Christian Era, when Muhummed (pbuh) was chanting God's words which was systematically "**put into his mouth,**" ' the Arabic Bible had not yet been translated. He could never have known that he was fulfilling and confirming the utterances of his predecessor Jesus (pbuh) to the letter.

ONLY FOR THE ISRAELITES

1.

**AND REMEMBER, JESUS
THE SON OF MARY, SAID:
"O CHILDREN OF ISRAEL!
I AM THE MESSENGER OF GOD
(SENT) TO YOU" (the Jews)**

وَإِذْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ
يَبْنَى إِسْرَائِيلَ
إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ

JESUS FOR JEWS ONLY

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them saying, Go ye not into the way of the Gentiles,¹ and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go ye rather unto The Lost Sheep Of The House Of Israel.

(HOLY BIBLE) Matthew 10:5-6

1 Gentiles: non-Jews

NOT FOR DOGS

And behold a woman of Canaan ¹ came ... and cried unto him saying, have mercy on me ... my daughter is seriously possessed with a devil.

But he answered her not a word.

And his disciples came and begged him, saying. Send her away: for she crieth after us.

But he answered and said, I am Not Sent But Unto The Lost Sheep Of The House Of Israel.

But she came and knelt before him, saying. Lord, help me.

But he answered her and said, It is Not Fair To Take The Children's Bread And Cast It To The Dogs. ²

(HOLY BIBLE) Matthew 15:22-26

1. Mark 7.26 says that the woman was a Greek.

2. Meaning non-Jews.

It goes to the credit of this Jewish prophet, that he practised what he preached. In his lifetime he never converted a single Gentile (non-Jew). And of his hand-picked elect (his twelve disciples), he made sure that they belonged to his tribe so that his other prophecy might Find fulfilment: *"when the son of man (Jesus pbuh referring to himself) shall sit on the throne of his glory, ye (the disciples) also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19: 28).*

NO NEW RELIGION

"CONFIRMING THE LAW ² (WHICH) CAME BEFORE ME," مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيِ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ

2 "LAW": The word in the Arabic text here is "Taurat." (Heb. "Torah.")

The Messiah was no mealy-mouthed Messenger among the Jews. Like his predecessors Amos and Ezekiel or Isaiah and Jeremiah, he was trenchant in his condemnation of Jewish formalism and hypocrisies. His novel approach and militant preaching had created certain misgivings amongst the religious hierarchy. The Scribes and the Pharisees came to him again and again to test him as to his bona fides (His Genuineness).

To allay their suspicions that he had brought no new fangled religion, and that his was the confirmation of all the teachings that had gone before him. He says — **Think not that I am come to destroy the law** (Hebrew - Torah), **or the prophets: I am come not to destroy, but to fulfil.**

For verily I say unto you. Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law (Torah), **till all be fulfilled.**

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. HOLY BIBLE Matthew 5: 17-19

Compare this phrase **"CONFIRMING THE LAW (WHICH CAME) BEFORE ME"** - these seven words at the beginning of this section with the three verses of Matthew above, and you will not fail to note that there is no wordiness in the Qur'anic diction. It conveys God's Message concisely, with clarity and precision.

"THE FATHER' OF TRUTH CHOOSES HIS OWN PROPHETS, AND HE SPEAKS TO THEM IN A VOICE STRONGER THAN THE VOICE OF THUNDERY

Sayed Amir Ali in "The Spirit of Islam. "

1. FATHER: The use of the word "Father" in relation to God was cut out from Islam owing to the perversion of the idea among Christians.

The Qur'ân had come to Confirm, Correct and Complete Divine Revelation, or whatever was left of it in unworthy hands.

THIS QUR'AN IS NOT SUCH
AS CAN BE PRODUCED
BY OTHER THAN ALLAH;
ON THE CONTRARY IT IS A
CONFIRMATION OF (REVELATION)
THAT WENT BEFORE IT,
AND A FULLER EXPLANATION
OF THE BOOK
WHEREIN THERE IS NO
DOUBT FROM THE LORD OF THE WORLDS.

وَمَا كَانَ هَذَا الْقُرْآنُ
أَنْ يُفْتَرَى مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ
وَلَكِنْ تَصْدِيقَ الَّذِي
بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ
وَتَفْصِيلَ الْكِتَابِ
لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ مِنْ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
(SÚRA Y-ÚNUS) Holy Qur'an 10: 37

3. THE GOOD NEWS

**"... AND GIVING GLAD TIDINGS
OF A MESSENGER
TO COME AFTER ME,
WHOSE NAME SHALL BE AHMED."**

وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي
مِّنْ بَعْدِ ٱلَّذِي
أَسْمَىٰ أَحْمَدًا
(SURA SAFF) Holy Qur'an 61:6

I will not apologise, nor am I called upon to apologise for reproducing here **verbatim** (a word for word) commentary on the word "**AHMED**," from ABDULLAH YUSUF ALI'S English translation. But before I do that permit me to pay a fitting tribute to the **KING FAHD HOLY QUR'AN PRINTING COMPLEX** in Al-Madinah Al-Munawarah which is turning out millions of Holy Qur'ân in many different languages.

Their reason for using YUSUF ALI as a base for their reproduction is summed up in these words:

"A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS HAVE IN THE PAST VENTURED TO TRANSLATE THE QUR'AN, BUT THEIR WORKS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN PRIVATE ATTEMPTS, GREATLY INFLUENCED BY THEIR OWN PREJUDICES. IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A RELIABLE TRANSLATION FREE FROM PERSONAL BIAS, A ROYAL DECREE (No, 19888, DATED 16/8/1400 AH) WAS ISSUED BY THE CUSTODIAN OF THE TWO HOLY MOSQUES, KING FAHD IBN ABDUL AZIZ, AT THAT TIME THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER - THE TRANSLATION OF THE LATE USTADH **ABDULLAH YUSUF ALI** WAS CONSEQUENTLY CHOSEN FOR ITS DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS, SUCH AS A HIGHLY ELEGANT STYLE, A CHOICE OF WORDS CLOSE TO THE MEANING OF THE ORIGINAL TEXT, ACCOMPANIED BY SCHOLARLY NOTES AND COMMENTARIES."

The Presidency of Islamic Researches, Ifta, Call and Guidance

Out of over six thousand profound explanatory notes in Yusuf Ali's translation, the following is just one of three explaining the prophecy in the words of Jesus (pbuh) regarding the advent of Muhummed (pbuh) the Messenger of God. Note No: 5438:

"Ahmed", or **"Muhummed"**, the Praised one, is almost a translation of the Greek word **Periclytos**. In the present Gospel of John 14:16, 15:26, and 16:7, the word "Comforter" in the English version for the Greek word **"Paracletos"**, which means "Advocate", "one called to the help of another, a kind friend", rather than "Comforter". Our doctors contend that Paracletos is a corrupt reading for Periclytos and that in the original saying of Jesus there was a prophecy of our holy Prophet **Ahmed** by name. Even if we read Paraclete, it would imply to the Holy Prophet, who is "a Mercy for all creatures" (H.Q. 21:107) and "most kind and merciful to the Believers" (H.Q. 9:128) See also note 416 to H.Q. 3:81.

**BUT WHEN HE CAME TO THEM
WITH CLEAR SIGNS,**

**THEY SAID: "THIS IS
EVIDENT SORCERY!"**

فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ
قَالُوا هَذَا سِحْرٌ مُبِينٌ ﴿٦١﴾

Thus concludes (Ayat) verse 6 of (Sura) chapter 61 under discussion. "The Prophet of Islam was foretold in many ways; and when he came he showed forth many Clear Signs, for his whole life from beginning to end was one vast miracle. He fought and won against odds. Without learning from men he taught the highest wisdom. He melted hearts that were hard, and he strengthened hearts that were tender and required support. In all his sayings and doings men of discernment could see the working of God's hand;" yet the sceptics called it *SORCERY* — jugglery — magic!

**FORGER AND JUGGLER! NO, NO! THIS GREAT FIERY HEART, SEETHING,
SIMMERING LIKE A GREAT FURNACE OF THOUGHTS, WAS NOT A JUGGLER'S.**
[Thomas Carlyle, page 88 in his book -"*Heroes and Hero-worship*"]

And they called his miraculous fulfilment of prophecy magic, Jugglery, enchantment — that which became the most solid fact of human history — **Islam!**

CHAPTER THREE

MUHUMMED (PBUH) IS THE "PARACLETE"

To the sincere seekers of Truth it is obvious that Muhammed (pbuh) is the promised Paraclete or Comforter, alternatively called Helper, Advocate, Counsellor, etc of the prophecies of Jesus (pbuh) in the Gospel of St. John. There are millions of Christians — men and women like our good lady at the Cairo Airport who are hungry for this simple straight-forward Message. But alas, we can only weep with Jesus (pbuh) for our utter ineptitude —

The harvest truly is plenteous, but the workers are few.

(HOLY BIBLE) Matthew 9: 57

LANGUAGE OF JESUS (PBUH)

In the Holy Qur'ân God Almighty puts the name "Ahmed" which is another name for Muhammed (pbuh) in the mouth of Jesus (pbuh). The Christian controversialist, Bible-thumper, Hot-Gospeller flippantly scoffs at the suggestion. The Christian missionary does not deny that Jesus (pbuh) did make a prophecy about someone coming after him. But "Ahmed" to him seems too far-fetched.

The most commonly accepted name by Christendom is "Comforter" It does not really matter Comforter or any other equivalent term will do. We will settle for Comforter as used in the most popular Bible Translation the "King James Version."

Ask your adversary, your disputant whether Jesus (pbuh) spoke the English language? "Most definitely not!" any Christian will say. If you are sharing this with an Arab Christian then you can ask him whether his "lord" used the word "MOOUZZI?" Surely not, because Arabic was not his language. Did Jesus (pbuh) prophesy "uMthokozisi?" (Comforter in Zulu) or "Trooster" from the Afrikaans Bible? The answer again is a definite NO!"

The Christians are rightfully boasting that they now have translated the complete Bible into hundreds of different languages, and the New Testament (in which this prophecy abounds) into more than two thousand different languages and dialects. So the Christian genius has invented more than 2000 different names in 2000 different languages for this one candidate — Comforter!

PNEUMA: GHOST OR SPIRIT?

The Church fathers had developed a sickness by translating names of people, for which they had no right to do. For example like Esau to Jesus, Messiah to Christ, Cephas¹ to Peter and so on.

1. See ["What is His Name?"](#) for a better clarification on this point.

The closest one can ever get to the original utterance of Jesus (pbuh) in the Christian Scriptures is the Greek word "Para-cletos" which also has to be rejected because the Master did not speak Greek! But let's not be difficult for the purpose of this discussion and accept the Greek word Paracletos and its English equivalent Comforter.

Ask any learned Christian man as to who the Comforter is? You will unmistakably hear - "The Comforter is the HOLY GHOST!" from John 14: 26. This sentence is only part of verse twenty six. We will deal with the verse fully in due course. But first we must educate the Christian mind with regards to this misnomer — "Holy Ghost." "Pneuma" is the Greek root word for SPIRIT. There is no separate word for GHOST in the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, and the Christians now boast 24,000 different manuscripts in their possession of which no two are identical!

The editors of the KJV (*The King James Version*) alternatively called AV (*The Authorised Version*) and the DOUAY (*The Roman Catholic Version*) of the Bibles gave preference to the word "GHOST" instead of the word SPIRIT when translating "pneuma"

The revisers of the RSV (*Revised Standard Version*)¹ the most up-to-date version of the Bible, are going back, as claimed, to the Most Ancient manuscripts. These revisers, described as "thirty-two scholars of the highest eminence, backed by fifty co-operating denominations" who courageously re-placed the shady word "ghost" with the word "spirit" Hence from now on you will read in all modern translations — "The Comforter which is the Holy SPIRIT"! However, the Christian crusaders and the televangelists

stubbornly cling to the spooky ("ghost"-ly) past They will not opt for the Newer Versions. It's better fishing with the old bait - the KJV and the RCV (*Roman Catholic Version*).

1. For greater detail on the RSV see "Is the Bible God's Word?"

With the new change in spirit, the verse under scrutiny will read:

But the Comforter, Which is The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (Emphasis added).

(HOLY BIBLE) John 14: 26

You do not have to be a Bible scholar of any calibre to sense that the expression "which is the Holy Spirit" is actually an interpolation. It ought to be in parenthesis, in brackets, like my words which have been interpolated in the quotation, i.e. "(emphasis added)." Although the editors of the RSV have expunged dozens of interpolations from their boasted Revised Standard Version, they have retained this jarring phrase which contradicts other explicit predictions of Jesus (pbuh) on the subject of the Comforter itself.

"HOLY SPIRIT" IS HOLY PROPHET

(i) It may be noted that no Biblical scholar of any standing has ever equated the "paracletos" of John in the original Greek with the Holy Ghost. Now we can say with one breath that if the Comforter is the "Holy Spirit" then that Holy Spirit is the Holy Prophet!

As Muslims we acknowledge that every true prophet of God is Holy and without sin. But whenever the expression "The Holy Prophet" is used among Muslims it is universally accepted as referring to the Holy Prophet Muhammed (pbuh). So even if we accept the above incongruous saying — "*the Comforter which is the Holy Spirit*," as Gospel truth, even then this prophecy will fit Muhammed (pbuh) like a glove, without any stretching of its meaning.

The same John, who is supposed to have authored the Gospel bearing his name, also penned three more Epistles which are also part of the Christian Bible. Amazingly he has used the same terminology of "Holy Spirit" for "Holy Prophet."

Beloved, believe not every Spirit, but try the Spirits whether they are of God; because many false Prophets are gone out into the World.

(HOLY BIBLE) 1 John 4: 1

You can observe that the word spirit is used here synonymously with a prophet. A true spirit is a true prophet, and a false spirit is a false prophet But for the so-called "born-again" Christians who see only with eyes of emotion, I recommend that they lay their hands on C.I. Scofield's Authorized King James Version of the Bible with an Editorial Committee of 9 D.D.'s adding their notes and comments. When they come to
www.islambasics.com

the First word "spirit" in the above verse they should give a notation to compare it with Matthew 7: 15 which confirms that false prophets are false spirits. So according to St. John the Holy Spirit is the Holy Prophet, and the Holy Prophet is Muhammed (pbuh) the Messenger of God.

A VALID TEST

But St. John does not leave us in the air, guessing the true from the false. He gives us an acid test for recognising the true Prophet, he says —

Hereby know ye the Spirit¹ of God: Every Spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God.

(HOLY BIBLE) 1 John 4: 2

According to John's own interpretation in verse one above the word "spirit" is synonymous with the word prophet So verse two "Spirit of God" would mean Prophet of God and "Every spirit" would stand for every Prophet You have a right to know as to what the Holy Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) says about "Jesus Christ."²

1. For SPIRIT, read PROPHET

2. See "Christ in Islam" for detailed information of the high position that Jesus (pbuh) occupies in the house of Islam

Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) is spoken by name no less than 25 times in the Holy Qur'an. He is honoured as —

Isa ibn Maryam (Jesus, the son of Mary)

An-nabi (The Prophet)

As-saaliheen (The Righteous)

Kalimatu'Llah (Word of God)

Ruhu-Llah (Spirit of God)

Masih-uLlah (Christ of God)

Behold the angels said: "O Mary! God giveth thee Glad tidings of a Word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held In honour in this world and The Hereafter and of (the Company of) those nearest to God- (surah al-i-'imran) Holy Qur'ân 3:45

MUHAMMED (PBUH) IS THE "OTHER"

(ii) The Comforter in John 14: 26 can never be the "Holy Ghost" because Jesus (pbuh) had already explained— *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you Another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.*

(HOLY BIBLE) John 14: 16

The emphasis here is on the word "ANOTHER," an other, a different one, an additional one, but of the same kind, yet distinctly different from the first. Who is then the first Comforter? The Christian world is unanimous that in this case the speaker himself — Jesus Christ (pbuh) is the first Comforter; then the other, the one to follow must be of like nature, subject to the same conditions of hunger, thirst, fatigue, sorrow and death.

But this promised Comforter was to "abide with you for EVER!" No one lives for ever Jesus (pbuh) was mortal so must the coming Comforter also be mortal. No son of man can ever be immortal!

Every soul shall have a taste of death.

(SURAAL-I-IMRAN) Holy Qur'ân 5:185

ALIVE IN THEIR TEACHINGS

The soul does not really die, but when it separates from the body at the time of the death of the body, the soul will get a taste of death. But our Comforter was to "**ABIDE**" continue, endure for ever. All Comforters abide with us for ever. Moses is here with us today in his teachings. Jesus is here with us today in his teachings and Muhummed also is here with us in his teachings today. (May the peace and blessings of God be upon them all). This is not my novel idea trying to justify the preposterous. I say this with conviction and on the authority of Jesus Christ (pbuh) himself.

In Luke, chapter sixteen, Jesus (pbuh) tells us the story of the "Rich Man, Poor Man.' At death both find themselves at opposite ends — one in Heaven and the other in Hell. The rich man (Dives) simmering in Hell cries to Father Abraham to send the beggar (Lazarus) to assuage his thirst. But when every plea fails, he, as a last favour, requests that Father Abraham send the beggar back to earth to warn his living brothers against their impending doom if they heeded not the warnings of God.

But Abraham said, "If they (those still alive on earth) won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't listen even though someone rises from the dead. " (to warn them) **(HOLY BIBLE) Luke 16: 31**

Jesus (pbuh) uttered the above fact centuries after the demise of the prophets of Israel like Jeremiah, Hosea, Zechariah, etc and over thirteen hundred years after Moses (pbuh). The Pharisees at the time of Jesus (pbuh) and we today can still listen to "MOSES AND THE PROPHETS," for they are still alive, and with us here today in their teachings.

'YOU' OF THE TIME

If it is said that the Comforter was promised to the immediate disciples of Jesus (pbuh) and not to a people six hundred years later:

and he (God) shall give You another Comforter, that he may abide with You for ever.

(HOLY BIBLE) John 14:16

Surprisingly, the Christian sees no difficulty in justifying the fulfillment of prophecies "since the world began,"¹ and after over a millennium² when Peter in his second sermon to the Jews, reminds them:

For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord Your God raise up unto You of Your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear In all things what-so ever he shall say unto You.

(HOLY BIBLE) Acts 3: 22

All these "YE, YOU and YOURS" are from the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 18,³ when Moses (pbuh) addressed his people and not the Jews at the time of Peter, thirteen hundred years later. The Gospel writers have put the same compromising words in the mouth of their Master which are begging for fulfillment for two thousand years. I think just one example will suffice:

But when they persecute You in this city, flee Ye into another: for verily (most assuredly) I (Jesus) say unto You, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel till the son of man (Jesus) be come.

(HOLY BIBLE) Matthew 10: 25

1. Acts 3:21

2. Millennium: A thousand years

3. For an elaboration on this prophecy, see "WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MUHAMMED (PBUH)"

SCANNING THE CLOUDS

These early followers of the Messiah, forever ran, forlornly fleeing persecution. They ran from one city to another in Israel, scanning every dark cloud for the descent of Jesus (pbuh) in his second coming. The missionaries see no anomaly in their millennium of unfulfilled prophecies. God Almighty did not keep them waiting for even a quarter of the time for the advent of the "paracletos," — the Comforter or Ahmed which is another name for the Praised One. Let them show gratitude to God by accepting this Last and Final Messenger of God — Muhammed (pbuh)!

ADVENT OF COMFORTER CONDITIONAL

(iii) The Comforter is definitely not the "Holy Ghost" because the coming of the Comforter was conditional whereas that of the Holy Ghost was not as we observe in the prophecy —

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go for If I Go Not Away, The Comforter Will Not Come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

(HOLY BIBLE) John 16: 7

"If I don't go he won't come, but if I go, I will send him." There are numerous instances in the Holy Bible about the coming andgoing of the HOLY GHOST, before the birth and departure of the Messiah. Do yourself a favour, please verify these references in your Bible -

B.C. BEFORE CHRIST'S BIRTH:

1. ... and he (John the Baptist) shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

(HOLY BIBLE) Luke 1: 15

2. ... and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost.

(HOLY BIBLE) Luke 1: 41

3. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost.

(HOLY BIBLE) Luke 1:67

A.C. AFTER CHRIST'S BIRTH:

4. ... and the Holy Ghost was upon him (Simeon).

(HOLY BIBLE) Luke 2:26

5. And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him (Jesus).

(HOLY BIBLE) Luke 3:22

From the above quotations, before and after the birth of Jesus (pbuh), one cannot help admiring St. Luke who appears to be a specialist on the Holy Ghost We may well ask the Christians, after the descent of the "dove", with whose help did Jesus (pbuh) perform his many miracles if not with the help of the Holy Ghost? Let the Master himself tell us. When accused by his own people, the Jews, that he was working in league with Beelzebub (the chief of the devils) to work his miracles, Jesus (pbuh) rhetorically questions them, "How can Satan cast out Satan?" The Jews imputed that this spirit of holiness - the Spirit of God - which was helping him, was devilish. This was treason of the highest order. So he gives them a dire warning:

... but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, it shall never be forgiven
(HOLY BIBLE) Matthew 12:31

This "Holy Ghost" is non other than what Matthew himself has described in three verses before quoting the Master:

But if I (Jesus) cast out devils by the Spirit OF God, then the kingdom of God is come upon you.
(HOLY BIBLE) Matthew 12:28

Compare the same statement by another Gospel writer¹

But if I (Jesus) by the Finger Of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.
(HOLY BIBLE) Luke 3:22

1. Give a second glance at the two verses, top and bottom, and you cannot help concluding that they are almost identical. Why? The answer is in **"Is the Bible God's Word?"**.

You do not have to be a Bible scholar to understand that the expressions (a) "Finger of God" (b) "Spirit of God" and (c) "Holy Ghost" are all synonymous phrases. So the Holy Ghost was helping Jesus (pbuh) in his ministry. The Holy Ghost was also helping his disciples on their missions of preaching and healing. If there is still any doubt in your minds about the workings of the Holy Ghost then please read:

EMPTY PROMISE

**...as my Father hath sent me, even so I send you (the disciples of Jesus),
And when he had said this, be breathed on them, and saith unto them,
Receive Ye The Holy Ghost**
(HOLY BIBLE) John 20: 21 –22

This was surely no empty promise. The disciples must have received the gift of the Holy Ghost. So if the "Holy Ghost" was with (1) John the Baptist, (2) Elizabeth. (3) Zacharias. (4) Simeon. (5) Jesus and (6) the Disciples of Jesus; then all this makes nonsense of the saying that "if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you." Therefore the Comforter is not the Holy Ghost?

The verse under discussion is John 16: 7. I remember the thrill and joy I got out of it when quoting it in Arabic to the Coptic Christian lady in the land of the Pharaohs (discussed earlier). The pleasure is immense when expounding Biblical verses in the standard native language of a country or locality. I have done it in a dozen different vernaculars. Won't you master the above verse in a language or two of your choice for the good of Islam?

AFRIKAANS A UNIQUE LANGUAGE

Of all the languages in which I have mastered the verse in question. I have derived the greatest excitement and benefit from Afrikaans. It is a language of the ruling race in South Africa. It is the youngest of the world's languages. The language is unique. In fact every language is unique. But Afrikaans is in a class of its own. It also happens to be the mother tongue of half the Muslim population of South Africa who were brought here as prisoners of war and enslaved by the Christians; that is simply by force of circumstances. For their immediate benefit and for your information I reproduce the verse here:

***Maar ek se julle die waarheid: dit is vir julle voordelig dat ek weggaan;
want as ek Nie weggaan Nie, sal
die Trooster¹ Nie na julle kom
Nie; maar as ek weggaan, sal ek horn na julle stuur***
Johannes 16: 7

1. TROOSTER: Now changed to "VOORSPRAAK!"

Believe it or not! It is the genius of this language that it uses four negatives NIE, NIE, NIE, NIE. to prove a positive! The departure of Jesus is an absolute imperative for the coming of the "Trooster," the Comforter to come! This verse in this language has opened many doors for me, other than religious, and it locks the door against the idea of the "Comforter which is the Holy Ghost" (John 14:26).

DISCIPLES NOT FIT

We now come to the four most comprehensive and decisive verses in John. chapter sixteen to solve the enigma of the Successor to Christ. For Jesus (pbuh) did truly say:

I have yet Many Things to say unto you, but Ye Cannot Bear Them Now. (HOLY BIBLE) **John 16: 12**

We will later tie up the phrase "many things" from the above verse with "guide you into all truth" from the verse that follows, when discussing it. For now. let us discuss the phrase — "YE CANNOT BEAR THEM NOW"

The truth of this statement "ye cannot bear them now" is repeated monotonously throughout the pages of the New Testament:

And he (Jesus) ***saith unto them*** (the disciples). ***Why are ye fearful, O Ye Of Little Faith?***
(HOLY BIBLE) **Matthew 8. 26**

AND (JESUS) ***said unto him*** (Peter) ***O Thou of Little Faith...*** (HOLY BIBLE)
Matthew 14:31

... he (Jesus) ***said unto them*** (the disciples), ***O Ye Of Little Faith, why reason among yourselves ...*** (HOLY BIBLE) **Matthew 16: 8**

And he (Jesus) said unto them (his disciples). Where Is Your Faith? (HOLY BIBLE) Luke 8: 25

We must bear in mind that this is not the indictment of Jesus (pbuh) on the indecisiveness of the Jews, but on his very own elect. He stoops down to the level of little children to make things plain to his disciples but he is compelled to burst out in frustration

And Jesus said, Are Ye Even Yet Without Understanding?

(HOLY BIBLE) Matthew 15:16

And when he was provoked to breaking point, he rails against his chosen ones —

“... O Faithless And Perverse Generation, how long shall I be with you, how long shall I bear with you? (HOLY BIBLE) Luke 9: 41

OWN FAMILY THOUGHT HIM MAD

If Jesus (pbuh) would have been a Japanese instead of a Jew. he would happily have committed that honourable **"harakiri"** (suicide). Sadly, he was the most unfortunate of God's Messengers. His family disbelieved him ***For neither did his (Jesus') brethren believe in him (John 7: 5).*** In fact they went to the extent of wanting to apprehend him. believing that he was mad.

And when his relatives heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him (Jesus); for they said, he is beside himself. (HOLY BIBLE) Mark 3. 21

Who were these friends and relatives of Jesus (pbuh) which had concern for his sanity? Let Rev. J.R. Dummelow. M.A. in his One Volume Bible Commentary tell us. On page 726 he says —

"FROM V.31" (just 10 verses following the above quotation) "THEY APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN HIS MOTHER AND BRETHREN... HIS FAMILY SAID '**HE IS BESIDE HIMSELF,**'" (meaning that he is not right in his head); "THE SCRIBES SAID, '**HE IS POSSESSED BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF.**' IT IS NOT, HOW EVER, IMPLIED AT ALL THAT HIS FAMILY WAS IN SYMPATHY WITH THE SCRIBES" (the learned men of the Jews). "THEIR APPREHENSION BEING SIMPLY THAT HIS MIND WAS UNSETTLED. AND THAT HE NEEDED TO BE PUT UNDER RESTRAINT."

JESUS - REJECTED BY HIS NATION

That was the verdict of the close relations of Jesus (pbuh). What then was the response of his own nation, the Jews, after all his beautiful preaching and mighty miracle workings? His disciple puts it very mildly:

He came unto his own (the Jews) and his own received him (Jesus) not.

(HOLY BIBLE) John 1:11

Actually "his own" mocked him. scorned him and vehemently rejected him. To the extent of making an attempt to crucify him.' Despite two thousand years of Christian persecutions and pogroms, and now their overweening love and infatuation for them, so as to salve their own conscience, the Jews as a people and as a whole can never accept Jesus as their Saviour, their Deliverer, their God, simply because of their one sound judgement —

"THAT NO JEW CAN EVER ACCEPT ANOTHER JEW AS A GOD!"

It is only in Islam that the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims can find accommodation — all believing in Jesus Christ (pbuh) for what he really was — one of the mightiest Messengers of God; and not as God or His son!

DISCIPLES DESERTED HIM

What was the response of the chosen twelve; of his own **"mother and bretheren!"** (**Mark 3: 34**), as he called them? I will allow Professor Momerie to describe it in his own inimitable words—

"HIS IMMEDIATE DISCIPLES, WERE ALWAYS MISUNDERSTANDING HIM AND HIS WORK: WANTING HIM TO CALL DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN; WANTING HIM TO DECLARE HIMSELF KING OF THE JEWS; WANTING TO SIT ON HIS RIGHT HAND AND ON HIS LEFT HAND IN HIS KINGDOM; WANTING HIM TO SHOW THEM THE FATHER. TO MAKE GOD VISIBLE TO THEIR BODILY EYES;

WANTING HIM TO DO. AND WANTING TO DO THEMSELVES. ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING THAT WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH HIS GREAT PLAN. THIS WAS HOW THEY TREATED HIM UNTIL THE END. (and) WHEN THAT CAME. THEY ALL FORSOOK HIM. AND FLED."

Quoted from Sayed Amir Ali in his "The Spirit of Islam" page 31.

It was most unfortunate that Jesus Christ (pbuh) had no real choice in selecting his disciples. They let him down as no other group of devotees had ever let down their prophet before. It was no fault of the Master. He bewailed his plight: **"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh"** **"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh (clay) is weak"** (**Matthew 26: 41**). Truly, this is not the clay out of which a new Adam could be made. He passes on that responsibility to his Successor, whom he calls here — **"The Spirit of Truth,"** ie the Prophet of Truth, the Prophet of Righteousness!

"SPIRIT" AND "PROPHET" SYNONYMOUS

Howbeit when he, the Spirit Of Truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth

(Holy Bible) John 16:13

It has already been established that. Biblically, the word **"Spirit"** is used synonymously for **"Prophet,"** by the same author in 1 John 4: 1 (as seen earlier).

Hence the "Spirit of Truth" would be the Prophet of Truth. A prophet in whom **Truth** is personified. He had walked through life so honourably and industriously that he had won for himself even from his pagan fellow countrymen the noble designation of **as-Saadiq** (the Truthful One) and **al-Amin**, "the Honest," "the Upright," "the Trustworthy;" the Man of Faith who never broke his word. His life, his personality, his teachings are the veritable proof of Muhammed (pbuh) being the embodiment of Truth (al-Amin) — the Spirit of Truth!

CHAPTER FOUR

Total Guidance!

"MANY" AND "ALL"

As promised, we will now combine, **"I have yet MANY things to say unto you"** from verse twelve, with **"he will guide you into ALL truth."** From John 16: 12 and 13.

If the Christian still persists that the Spirit of Truth of this prophecy is the Holy Ghost then ask him or her whether in their language does "MANY" means more than one? Also if **"ALL"** in the above verse means more than one? If you get a halting, wavering, hesitant **"y-e-s"** then close the book. it is not worth pursuing dialogues with opinionated fools. But if you get the answer "yes!" with alacrity then proceed ...

The one prophesied by Jesus (pbuh) was to unravel **many** things which he had left unsaid, as well as to guide humanity into **all** truth. There are many problems facing mankind today, for which we are fumbling for answers. Can you please give me one new thing that the alleged Holy Ghost gave to anybody in the past two thousand years, which Jesus Christ had not already given in so many different words? I don't want many, I' am looking for **just one!**

NO SOLUTION FROM HOLY GHOST

Believe me, in my forty years of questioning. I have not come across a single Christian with a single "new Truth" inspired by the Holy Ghost, yet the promise was that the coming Comforter **"he will guide you into all truth!"** If the Spirit of Truth of this prophecy is the Holy Ghost then every Church and denomination, and every 'born-again' Christian is claiming the gift of the Holy Ghost. The Roman Catholics claim that they have the whole Truth because of the so-called "in-dwelling" of the Holy Ghost. The Anglicans make the same claim, and the Methodists, the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Seventh Day Adventists, the Baptists, the Christadelphians. etc. etc. not forgetting the 'born-again's' who claim to be numbering over 70 million in the United States alone.

You have the right to demand solutions from them, on the authority of the Holy Ghost, for the problems listed below:

1. Alcohol

2. Gambling

3. Fortune Telling

4. Idol Worship, Devil Worship

5. Racism

6. Problem of Surplus Women etc etc.

PROBLEM OF ALCOHOL

The Republic of South Africa with a small "white"¹ population of 4 million among its total population of 30 million, has over 300,000 alcoholics. In neighbouring Zambia. Kenneth Kaunda calls such people "drunkards!" It is recorded that the "**coloureds**"² in South Africa have five times the amount of alcoholics as any other race in the country. For the Indians and the Africans no statistics are available for their respective drunkards.

Jimmy Swaggart the televangelist records in his book "ALCOHOL" that the United States has 11 million alcoholics³ and 44 million "heavy drinkers!", and he like a good Muslim, goes on to say that he sees no difference between the two. To him they are all **drunkards!** The rampant evil of drunkenness is universal. The Holy Ghost has not yet made its pronouncement on this evil through any Church. Christendom winks at drunkenness on three flimsy pretences based on the Holy Bible.

1. Of European extraction.

2. A mixture between the Black and White Races,

3. The Americans euphemistically call them "**Problem Drinkers.**"

(a) **Give strong drink (hard liquor) to him who is perishing (one who is dying) And wine to those who are bitter of heart. Let him drink and forget his poverty. And remember his misery no more.**

(HOLY BIBLE) Proverbs 31:6-7

A very good philosophy to keep the subject nations under subjugation, you will agree.

HIS VERY FIRST MIRACLE

(b) Jesus (pbuh) was no "killjoy," the imbibers say, he turned water into wine in his very first recorded miracle in the Bible:

Jesus saith unto them. Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

And he saith unto them. Draw out now...

When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine ...

And saith ... (why) thou hast kept the good wine until now.

(HOLY BIBLE) John 2: 7-10

Since this alleged miracle, wine continues to flow like water in Christendom.

SOBER ADVICE

(c) Saint Paul the thirteenth self-appointed disciple of Christ, the real founder of Christianity, advises his new convert protege — Timothy, born of a Greek father and a Jewish mother:

Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

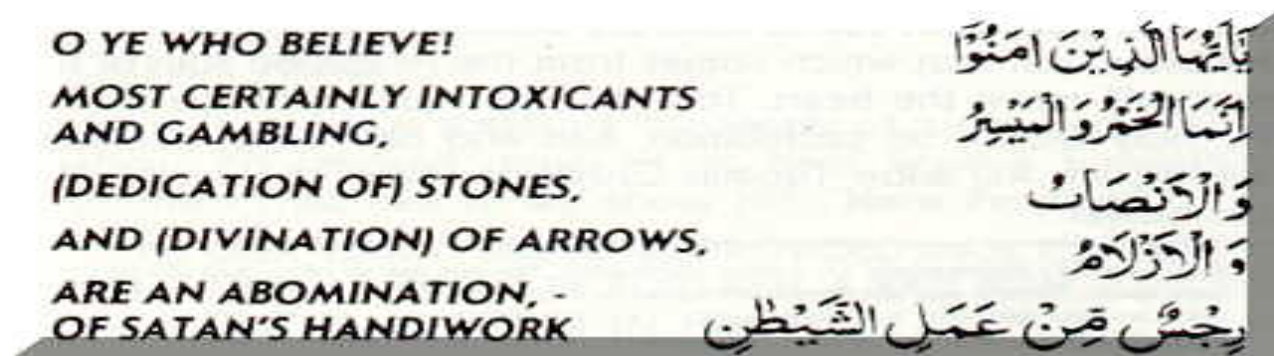
(HOLY BIBLE) 1 Timothy 5: 23

The Christians accept all the Bible quotations on stimulating and intoxicating drinks given above as the infallible word of God. They believe that the Holy Ghost inspired the authors to pen such dangerous advices. Rev. Dummelow seems to have some qualms about this verse. He says.

"IT TEACHES US THAT IF THE BODY NEEDS THE STIMULANT OF WINE. IT IS RIGHT TO TAKE IT IN MODERATION."

ABSTINENCE THE ONLY ANSWER

There are thousands of Christian priests who have been lured into alcoholism by sipping the so-called mild wine in the Church rite of the Holy Communion. Islam is the only religion on the face of the earth which prohibits intoxicants in toto. The Holy Prophet (Spirit) Muhummed (pbuh) had said. "WHATEVER INTOXICATES IN GREATER QUANTITY IS FORBIDDEN EVEN IN SMALLER QUANTITY." There is no excuse in the house of Islam for a nip or a tot. The Kitab-al-Haq, the Book of Truth (Haq) one of the titles of the Holy Qur'ân condemned in the strongest terms not only the evil of alcohol but also items 2, 3, and 4 namely "gambling," "fortune telling" and "idol worship," with just a single stroke —



SHUN SUCH (ABOMINATION), **فَاَجْتَنِبُواْ عَذَابَكُمْ تَفْلِحُونَ**
THAT YE MAY PROSPER.

(SURA MAIDA) Holy Qur'ân 5:93

When this verse was revealed, wine barrels were emptied in the streets of Madinah, never to be refilled. This simple straightforward directive has created of the Muslim Ummah (religious community) the biggest society of teetotaler¹ in the world.

1. Teetotaler: A person who abstains completely from all alcoholic drinks.

U.S.A. FAILS WITH "PROHIBITION"

The question arises, how is it that this Spirit of Truth — the Holy Prophet Muhummed (pbuh) succeeded with one verse whereas mighty America with the brainpower of the nation and the money power of the Government, supported by its powerful propaganda machinery failed with "Prohibition,"¹ the law outlawing alcohol?

Who coerced the American nation to enact prohibition? Which Arab nation threatened this mighty power with if you do not prohibit alcohol in your country. We will not supply you with oil? Not the Arabs as there was no such thing as oil as a "POLITICAL INSTRUMENT" in the hands of the Arabs during the twenties to egg the United States. It was an intellectual awareness among the American (founding) fathers, based on study and statistics which brought them to the conclusion that intoxicants must be banned. They failed, notwithstanding the fact that the overwhelming majority of the nation was Christian, and that it was they who had voted their Congressmen into power. It is rightly said that that which comes from the brain (intellectually) tickles the brain, but that which comes from the heart and soul of a man, will move the heart. The verse just quoted above from the Holy Qur'ân on prohibition, had and has the power for change; we will allow Thomas Carlyle to reveal the source of that power:

"IF A BOOK COME FROM THE HEART. IT WILL CONTRIVE TO REACH OTHER HEARTS; ALL ART AND AUTHORCRAFT ARE SMALL AMOUNT TO THAT. ONE WOULD SAY THE PRIMARY CHARACTER OF THE KORAN IS THIS OF ITS GENUINENESS, OF ITS BEING A BONA-FIDE BOOK."

1. Prohibition: The era from 1920 to 1933 in which the sale, trade and consumption of alcohol was outlawed in the United States as a result of a long campaign by church groups, women's organizations, temperance societies and the Anti-Saloon league. It sparked off bootlegging, which gave a strong financial arm to organized crime. Congress repealed the Act in 1933, after strong public opinion dismay at its failure. These were also the years in which the infamous Al-Capone made his first debut.

HIGH SPIRITUALITY - A SOURCE OF POWER

All the beautiful thoughts, words and expressions, never mind how artistically constructed, remain like ringing bells or clanking cymbals unless they are backed up by

a powerful personality charged with high spirituality. And that type of super spirituality comes only as Jesus (pbuh) put it through **"fasting and prayer"** (Matthew 17: 21).

Muhummed (pbuh) practised what he preached. After his demise someone asked his dear wife Ayesha Siddiqah about the life-style of her husband. She said. "He was the Qur'ân in action." He was the walking Qur'ân. He was the talking Qur'ân. He was the living Qur'ân.

"IF THESE MEN AND WOMEN, NOBLE, INTELLIGENT, AND CERTAINLY NOT LESS EDUCATED THAN THE FISHERMEN OF GALILEE, HAD PERCEIVED THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF EARTHLINESS, DECEPTION, OR WANT OF FAITH IN THE TEACHER HIMSELF, MOHAMMED'S HOPES OF MORAL REGENERATION AND SOCIAL REFORM WOULD ALL HAVE BEEN CRUMBLING TO DUST IN A MOMENT."

"Spirit of Islam" by Sayed Amir Ali, page 21

CRITIC'S HERO

If it is said that these are the words of a devoted Believer about his beloved, then let us hear what a sympathetic Christian critic had to say about HIS "Hero Prophet!"

"A POOR, HARD-TOILING, ILL-PROVIDED MAN; CARELESS OF WHAT VULGAR MEN TOIL FOR. NOT A BAD MAN, I SHOULD SAY; SOMETHING BETTER IN HIM THAN HUNGER OF ANY SORT, — OR THESE WILD ARAB MEN, FIGHTING AND JOSTLING THREE-AND-TWENTY YEARS AT HIS HAND, IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HIM ALWAYS, WOULD NOT HAVE REVERENCED HIM SO!

"... THEY CALLED HIM PROPHET, YOU SAY? WHY, HE STOOD THERE FACE TO FACE WITH THEM; BARE. NOT ENSHRINED IN ANY MYSTERY; VISIBLY CLOUTING HIS OWN CLOAK, COBBLING HIS OWN SHOES; FIGHTING, COUNSELLING, ORDERING IN THE MIDST OF THEM: THEY MUST HAVE SEEN WHAT KIND OF A MAN HE WAS, LET HIM BE CALLED WHAT YOU LIKE! NO EMPEROR WITH HIS TIARAS WAS OBEYED AS THIS MAN IN A CLOAK OF HIS OWN CLOUTING. DURING THREE-AND-TWENTY YEARS OF ROUGH ACUTAL TRIAL I FIND SOMETHING OF A VERITABLE HERO NECESSARY FOR THAT, OF ITSELF."

"Hero and Hero-worship" by Thomas Carlyle, page 93

PROBLEM OF RACISM

... For he (the Spirit of Truth) will guide you into all truth!

(HOLY BIBLE) John 16:13

NOT WITHOUT A SYSTEM

It is very easy for the followers of any religion to talk glibly about "THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD AND THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN" but how is this beautiful idea to be

implemented? How to devise a system to bring mankind into a single brotherhood? Five times a day, every Muslim is obligated to gather together at the local mosque to strengthen himself spiritually. The black and the white; the rich and the poor; people of different nationalities, of varying hues are made to rub shoulders in the daily Salaat, the Muslim at Prayer. Once a week, that is on Fridays, he has to congregate at the cathedral Mosque (the Jaame Musjid) for a wider gathering from the surrounding districts. And twice a year during the two Eids at still a larger venue, preferably in the open air, for a vaster communion. A-n-d, at least once in a life-time at the Kaaba, the Central Mosque in Makkah, for an international gathering; where one can witness the blonde-haired Turk, the Ethiopian, the Chinese, the Indian, the American and the African, all get levelled-up in the same pilgrim's garb of two unsewn sheets. Where is there such a great leveller in the religious rites of other faiths?

The infallible precept as enunciated in the Book of God is that the only standard recognised by God is on the basis of one's conduct, one's behaviour towards one's fellow human beings and not because of one's race or riches. These are the only true bases on which the "Kingdom of God" can be established. All this does not mean that the Muslim is immaculate, that he is altogether free from this sickness of racism, but you will find the Muslim the least racist of all the religious groupings strutting the world today.

PROBLEM OF SURPLUS WOMEN

Nature seems to be at war with mankind. It appears that it wants to take revenge for his cleverness. Man will not listen to the healthy, practical solution to his problems, which a Beneficial, Benevolent Providence offers him. So it says. "go simmer in your SOUP!" (in a manner of speaking).

It is an accepted fact that at birth the ratio of male and female is about equal everywhere. But in child mortality more males die than females. Amazing! The "weaker sex"? At any given time there are more widows in the world than widowers. Every civilized nation has a surplus of women. Great Britain, 4 million. Germany, 5 million. Soviet Russia 7 million, etc. But a solution acceptable to the problem of the mighty United States of America, will be a solution acceptable to nations everywhere. The statistics of this most sophisticated nation on earth is more readily verifiable.

AMERICA, O AMERICA!

We learn that the U.S.A. has a surplus of 7.8 million women. It means that if every man in America got married, there would still be 7 800 000 women left over, women who would be unable to get their share of a husband. One thing we do know, and that is that every man will never get married for so many different reasons. Man gets cold feet and finds many excuses. A woman, even if frigid, would not mind getting married. She would marry, even if it is just for shelter and protection.

But the American problem of surplus women is compounded. Ninety-eight percent of its prison population is male. Then they have 25 million sodomites. Euphemistically they call them "gays" a once beautiful word meaning — happy and joyous — now perverted!

America does everything in a big way. She produces everything mighty. Mighty in promoting God and also mighty in promoting the Devil. Let us for once, join the mighty televangelist (now fallen) Jimmy Swaggart, in his prayer. In his well-researched book - "HOMOSEXUALITY." he cries,

"AMERICA - GOD WILL JUDGE YOU (meaning that God will destroy you), FOR IF HE DOES NOT JUDGE YOU (destroy you). HE (God) MIGHT HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO SODOM AND GOMORRAH" for their hasty, utter destruction because of their practice of homosexuality or their wanton gratification of unnatural lust.

NEW YORK AS AN EXAMPLE

The City of New York has one million more women than men. Even if the total male population in this city mustered enough courage to unite with the opposite sex in matrimony; there would still remain 1 000 000 women without husbands.

But to make things worse, it is reputed that one third of the male population in this city is "gay" (homosexuals/sodomites). The Jews, a very vociferous lot in every controversy, remain quiet as mice, for fear of being labelled backward Easterners. The Church, with their millions of born again votaries claiming to be the dwelling houses of the Holy Ghost, are also silent on this topic.

The founders of the Mormon Church. Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, claiming a new revelation in 1830 preached and practiced unlimited polygamy to solve the problem of surplus women. The present day prophets of Mormonism¹ have abrogated the teaching of their Church fathers to placate American prejudice on the subject of polygamy. What is the poor American/Western/European surplus women to do? They have literally gone to the dogs.²

¹. The Mormons believe in an unbroken chain of living prophets in their church.

². Consult "The life of the American Female," by Dr. Alfred Kinsey and the latest on the subject by Masters and Johnson

ONLY SOLUTION - RESTRICTED AND REGULATED POLYGAMY

Al-Amin, the Prophet of Truth, the Spirit of Truth, under inspiration of God supplies the solution to their unfortunate plight. God ordains —

... Marry women of your choice, two, or three, or four;

But if you fear that you will

not be able to deal justly (with them)

Then (marry) only one ...

(SURA WSAA) Holy Qur'ân 4: 3

The Western world feigns tolerance towards the millions of sodomites and lesbians in their midst. It is a joking matter in the West for a man to keep a dozen mistresses, and beget a dozen bastard¹ children every year. Such lecherous creatures are proudly labelled as "studs."² "Let him sow his wild oats, but don't hold him responsible!" says the West

Islam says: "make man responsible for his pleasures." There is a type of man who is prepared to take on extra responsibility, and there is a type of woman who is prepared to share a husband. Why place obstacles in their way? You mock at (polygamy). which was practised by the prophets of God as recorded in the Holy Bible, you forget that Solomon The Wise had a thousand wives and concubines as recorded in the Good Book (1 King 11:3), a healthy solution to your momentous problem, and yet smugly wink at the gratification of unnatural lusts by sodomites and lesbians! What a perversion? Polygamy was practised by the Jews and the pagans in the time of Jesus (pbuh). He did not say a single word against it. Not his fault. The Jews gave him no peace to propound solutions. His was a natural cry, "when he the Spirit of Truth is came, he will guide you into All truth" (John 16:13).

1. Bastard: is Biblical. The Holy Bible has used it three times: Deut. 23:2, Zech. 9:6 and Heb.12:8

2. Stud: A slang used for a man considered to be excessively virile. The term usually reserved for animal husbandry.

COMFORTER TO BE A MAN

If I take the liberty of quoting the prophecy under discussion, with an emphasis on the pronouns, you will agree without any persuasion that the coming Comforter was to be a man and not a ghost.

Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come. . He will guide you into all truth:

for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall

He speak: and He will show you things to come.

(HOLY BIBLE) John 16: 13

Please count the number of *He's* in the above verse. There are s-e-v-e-n! Seven masculine pronouns in a single verse! There is not another verse in the 66 books of the Protestant Bible or in the 73 Books of the Catholic Bible with seven masculine pronouns, or seven feminine pronouns, or with seven neuter genders. You will agree that so many masculine pronouns in one verse ill befits a Ghost, holy or not!

NON-STOP INTERPOLATIONS

When this point of the seven masculine pronouns in a single verse of the Bible was mooted by the Muslims in India in their debates with the Christian missionaries, the Urdu version of the Bible had the pronouns presently changed to SHE. SHE. SHE! so that the Muslims could not claim that this prophecy referred to Muhummed (pbuh) — a man! This Christian chicanery; deception I have seen in the Urdu Bible myself. This is a common trickery by the missionaries, more specially in the vernacular. The very latest ruse I have stumbled across is in the Afrikaans Bible, on the very verse under discussion; they have changed the word "Trooster" (Comforter), to "Voorspraak" (Mediator), and interpolated the phrase — "die Heilige Gees" — meaning THE HOLY GHOST, which phrase no Bible Scholar has ever dared to interpolate into any of the multifarious English Versions. No not even the Jehovah's Witnesses.¹ This is how the Christians manufacture God's word!²

1. Jehovah's Witnesses: A Christian sect which has contrived its own Bible translation.

2. See ["Is the Bible Gods Word?"](#) and learn how the Christian has been interpolating his own prejudices in a book he claims to be from God.

NINE MASCULINE PRONOUNS

The only other place an author has unknowingly used so many masculine pronouns for this mighty Messenger Muhummed (pbuh) is given below:

"HIS GENTLE DISPOSITION, HIS AUSTERITY OF CONDUCT, THE SEVERE PURITY OF HIS LIFE, HIS SCRUPULOUS REFINEMENT, HIS EVER-READY HELPFULNESS TOWARDS THE POOR AND THE WEAK, HIS NOBLE SENSE OF HONOUR, HIS UNFLINCHING FIDELITY, HIS STERN SENSE OF DUTY HAD WON HIM, AMONG HIS COMPATRIOTS. THE HIGH AND ENVIABLE DESIGNATION OF AL-AM1N, THE TRUSTY."

"Spirit of Islam," by Sayed Amir Ali. page 14

"AL-AMIN," the Faithful, the Trustworthy, "even the Spirit of Truth" (John 14: 17). This expression is a figurative way of saying that SPEAKING TRUTH would be so characteristic of him that people would regard him as TRUTH PERSONIFIED: exactly as Jesus (pbuh) said about himself, "I am the way, the truth and the life . . ." (John 14: 6), that these noble qualities are personified in me. Follow me! But "when he the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16: 13). then you must follow him! But prejudices die hard, therefore we must work harder. But believe me, with the laser truth that Allah has given us, we can change the world with only a fraction of the energy that the Christian is expending.

SOURCE OF REVELATION

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth! For He Shall Not

Speak From Himself But Whatsoever He Shall Hear, That Shall He Speak.

(HOLY BIBLE) John 16:13

I have consistently been using the King James Version in my Biblical quotations, but for greater clarity, I give below, alternate rendering from some different versions of the above emphasised sentence:

1. for he will not speak on his Own

Authority, But will tell only what he hears.

The New English Bible

2. He will not speak On His Own; He will

Speak Only What He Hears.

New International Version

3. for he will not be presenting His Own Ideas,

But He Will Be Passing On To You What He Has Heard.

The Living Bible

This "**Spirit of Truth**," this Prophet of Truth. "**Al-Amin.**" will not be speaking spiritual truths on his own impulse, but he will speak on the same basis as his previous Comforter — Jesus (pbuh) had spoken:

For I speak not from myself; but the Father that sent me, he hath given me the commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

„. even as the Father hath saith unto me, so I speak.

(HOLY BIBLE) John 12: 49-50

In an identical manner God Almighty testifies His revelation to His Messenger Muhammed (pbuh).

Nor does He say (ought) of (His own) desire.

It is no less than, inspiration sent down to Him.

He was taught by one mighty in power.¹

(SURA NAJM) Holy Qur'ân 53; 3-5

This is how God communicated with all His chosen Messengers, whether Abraham, Moses or Jesus.² It would be absurd to think that this "Spirit of Truth" is the Holy Ghost,

because we are told that "he will not speak from himself, but what he hears," surely not from himself?

1. All Qur'ânic Commentators understand this role to refer to the archangel Gabriel. Call him the "Holy Ghost" if you like.

2.

Luke 1:70: "And he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began."

Acts 1:16: "This scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost spake by the mouth of David concerning Judas."

Luke 12:12: " For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say."

GOD - A TRINITY?

It is universally accepted in Christendom, all orthodox Christians who believe in what they call the Holy Trinity; that the Father is God, the son is God and the Holy Ghost is God, but they are not three Gods but one God. (?) Let an erudite Christian theologian, like the Rev. Dummelow tell us of this indivisibility, indissolubility of the Christian's "triune" God. Commenting on "We will come" of John 14: 23 he says —

WHERE THE SON IS, THERE OF NECESSITY IS THE FATHER ALSO, AS WELL AS THE SPIRIT, FOR THE THREE ARE ONE, BEING DIFFERENT FORMS OF THE SUBSISTENCE AND MANIFESTATION OF THE SAME DIVINE BEING. THIS PASSAGE ILLUSTRATES THAT THE PERSONS OF THE HOLY TRINITY ARE INSEPARABLE, AND CONTAIN ONE ANOTHER.

Please don't worry. You are not really expected to understand the above verbiage. In short the Christian believes that the "THREE" (I beg your pardon, the Christian says, "ONE!"), all the three are supposed to be Omnipresent and Omniscient and as such leads us to an amusing and ridiculous conclusion. Jesus (pbuh) according to the Christians agonized on the cross at Calvary. Being "inseparable," the Father and the Holy Ghost also must have agonized with the Son, and when he died, the other two died with him! Little wonder we hear the cry in the West — "God is Dead!" Don't laugh. All this imposes on us a more sombre responsibility of extricating our Christian brethren from the spiritual quagmire into which they are wallowing.

CHAPTER 5

Fulfilled Prophecies

And he will show you things to come.

(HOLY BIBLE) John 16: 13

REFUGEE: ONLY FOR A WHILE

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The Christians put great weight on the fulfillment of prophecies. Muhammed (pbuh) fulfilled many prophecies of the Old¹ and the New Testaments. To them, the prediction of events is considered to be the function of true prophecy — true Prophethood.

The Prophet of Islam uttered many prophecies, which are recorded for posterity in the Holy Qur'ân. Here are a few taken at random.

1. Verily. He Who (God Almighty) ordained the Qur'ân for thee, (He) will bring thee back to the Place of Return... (SURA QASAS) Holy Qur'ân 28: 85

"Place of Return," is a title of the Holy City of Makkah. During the Hijrat (Migration) when the Holy Prophet was fleeing from Makkah to Madinah. It was a hopeless situation. Most of his followers had already migrated to Madinah. Now it was his turn. Together with Abu Bakr (as-Siddiq) he had reached a place called Juhfa, when this assurance was given by God that once again he will return to his birth-place Makkah, and so he did.

He migrated as a refugee and God returns him as a conquerer, fulfilling yet another prophecy.²

And he (Moses) said, the Lord came from Sinai, and rose from Seir unto them; he shined Forth from mount Paran (that is in Arabia), and he (Muhammed) came with Ten Thousand Saints:³ from his right hand went a fiery law For them. (HOLY BIBLE) Deuteronomy 33: 2

¹ You will find some of these prophecies expounded in – ["What the Bible says about Muhammed \(pbuh\)"](#)

² For a detailed exposition of this book read "Muhammed (pbuh) in the Bible" by Abdul-Ahad Dawud; former Bishop of Uramiah.

³ The Holy Prophet was accompanied by 10 000 SAHABAS (companions – veritable saints) at the conquest of Makkah.

SUPER-POWERS: IN CONFLICT

2. The Roman Empire has been defeated In a land close by; But they, (even) after (this) Defeat of theirs, will soon be victorious — Within a few years. With God is the Decision, In the Past and in the Future: On that day shall the Believers rejoice — (SURA RUM) Holy Qur'ân 30: 2-4

The above prophecy was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) in the year 615/16 of the Christian era. The Christian Empire of Rome had lost Jerusalem to the Persians, and Christianity had been humbled in the dust. In this holocaust between two of the Superpowers of the day, the Mushriks (polytheists) of Makkah derived vicarious pleasure in the discomfiture of the Romans by the pagan Persians.

"THE PAGAN ARABS NATURALLY SIDED WITH THE PERSIANS IN THEIR DESTRUCTIVE ZEAL, AND THOUGHT THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE

Yusuf Ali (Commentator on the English translation of the Holy Qur'ân)

Within ten years of the revelation of this Divine prediction, the prophecy was fulfilled!

CHALLENGE OF THE QUR'AN

3. The Holy Prophet claimed that the Holy Qur'ân was from God Almighty, and that it was revealed to him by inspiration. The proof of its Divine authorship is its own beauty and nature, and the circumstances in which it was promulgated. To prove the veracity of his claim, he has placed before you many Suras. Can the unbeliever produce one like it? This is a standing challenge! An eternal prophecy of mankind's inability to equal or excel, or to rival successfully any of its chapters.

Your plea, "I don't know Arabic," is useless. There are millions of Christian Arabs living today. The Christians boast that there are at least 10-15 million Coptic Christians in Egypt alone and these are not all *fellaheens*.¹ Here is the challenge of God in His Own words —

(a) This Qur'ân is not such as can be produced by other than Allah.²

Holy Qur'ân 10:37

(b) Say: "If the whole of mankind and Jinns were to gather together to produce the like of this Qur'ân, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they backed up each other with help and support."

(SURA BANI ISRAIL) Holy Qur'ân 17: 88

(c) Or do they say, "He forged it"? Say: "Bring then a Sura like unto it, and call (to your aid) anyone you can, besides Allah, if it be that ye speak the truth!"

(SURA Y-UNUS) Holy Qur'ân 10:38

(d) And if ye are in doubt as to what We have revealed from time to time to Our servant, then produce a Sura like thereunto; And call your witnesses or helpers (if there are any) besides Allah. If your (doubts) are true. But if ye cannot — And of a s u r e t y y e c a n n o t — Then fear the Fire whose fuel is Men and Stones,— which is prepared for those who reject Faith.

(SURA BAQARA) Holy Qur'ân 2:23 24

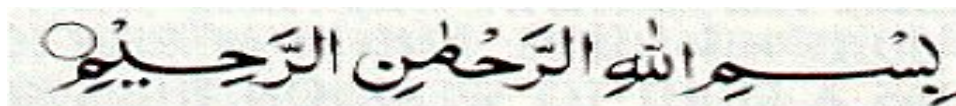
It is now fourteen hundred years since the above challenges, but mankind has singularly failed to produce anything similar or something better. This is an Eternal Testimony of the Divine Origin of the Holy Qur'an.

1. Fellaheen: A peasant or agricultural labourer in Arab countries

2. Allah: A proper noun for God Almighty in the Semitic languages. See "[What is his name?](#)" which explains the word in detail

CHRISTIAN ARABS HAD A TRY!

The Arab Christians in the Middle East, not to be outwitted, launched a sixteen-year project lately and produced selected portions of the New Testament in Arabic, with a wholesale borrowing¹ of words and phrases verbatim from the Arabic Qur'ân. It is an ignoble attempt! In this un-ashamed plagiarism, **every** chapter of this **new** Arabic New Testament of theirs begin with the First verse of the Holy Qur'ân —



(SURA FATIHA) Holy Qur'ân 1:1

Can you beat that?

There are many more challenges and prophecies in the Holy Qur'ân and in the **Ahadith** (traditions of the Prophet) which can be expounded. It is a neglected field. Perhaps books can be written on the subject. I trust that Muslim scholars will take up the challenge. But let me end this theme of prophecy with one last reference from Allah's **Kalaam** (the book of God).

1. "He who goes borrowing, goes a sorrowing!"

ISLAM TO PREVAIL

(e) It is He who has sent His Messenger with Guidance and the Religion of Truth. That he may Proclaim it over all religion. Even though the associators may detest (it).

(SURA SAFE) Holy Qur'ân 61:9

Within decades the above promise became true. Islam prevailed. The two superpowers of the day, the Persian and the Roman Empires crumbled at the hands of the Muslims. And for centuries the power of Islam predominated — from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Alas, the Muslims are in the doldrums today. But fear not, the world of Islam is arising. There is hope. Even non-Muslim Visionaries in the West have predicted its destiny to be in the skies.

"AFRICA IS A FAIR FIELD FOR ALL RELIGIONS, BUT THE RELIGION WHICH THE AFRICAN WILL ACCEPT, IS A RELIGION WHICH BEST SUITS HIS NEEDS: AND THAT RELIGION, EVERYONE WHO HAS A RIGHT TO SPEAK ON THE SUBJECT SAYS IS ISLAM."

"The Shape of Things to Come" KG. Wells

"IF ANY RELIGION HAS A CHANCE OF CONQUERING ENGLAND, NAY EUROPE WITHIN THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS, THAT RELIGION IS ISLAM."

George Bernard Shaw

Without any real effort on the part of the Muslims, we are told by the Westerners themselves that Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world today. I hope, this pleasant news does not lull us to sleep. The promise of God is true, the destiny is there, only a little exertion is required on our part. Allah can transform nations and peoples by His Own Will, but He has given us the privilege of serving His **Deen** by personal self-sacrifice. To be an effective soldier in this battle, arm yourself with John 16: 7 in one or more languages, and watch how Allah fills you with more knowledge. It is our destiny to master, supercede and bulldoze every **ism**, never mind how much the unbeliever may be averse to the Message of Islam.

GLORIFYING JESUS (PBUH)

He (the Spirit of truth)¹ shall Glorify Me (Jesus): for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

(HOLY BIBLE) John 16:13

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall Testify of Me.

(HOLY BIBLE) John 15:26

This promised Comforter, **even** the Spirit of Truth in whom Truth is personified, when he comes, will bear witness to the truthfulness of the Messiah and absolve him from the calumnies of his enemies.

This Muhummed (pbuh), **Al-Amin**, the Prophet of Truth, eminently succeeded in doing. He made it possible that today, **a thousand million Muslims believe in Jesus Christ (pbuh) as one of the mightiest Messengers of God. They believe in his miraculous birth, which many modern day Christians, even Bishops do not believe. And they also believe in his many miracles, including those of giving life to the dead by God's leave; and healing those born blind and the lepers by God's leave. What a mighty testimony! Listen to the moving terms of the story of his Annunciation:**

1. The same John who supposedly wrote this Gospel, says in 1 John 4:6 **"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth from the spirit of error."**

It is clearly shown here that, spirit of truth is articulated only in reference to a human being (and in the context of this study, a human prophet), not the Holy Spirit or Ghost. A spirit of truth would be a true Prophet, and a spirit of error would be a false prophet.

MIRACULOUS CONCEPTION

And mention in the Book, the story of Mary, when she withdrew from her people to a place In the East.

And she placed a screen to screen herself from them;

Then we sent unto her Our Spirit, that appeared to her as a man in all respects.

She said. "I take refuge in the All-Merciful from you, If you fear Allah ..,"

He said, "I am but a messenger come from your Lord, to announce to you the gift of a holy son."

She said, "How can I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?"

He said, "Even so your Lord has said:

'Easy is that for Me, and that We may appoint him a sign unto men and a mercy from Us; it is a thing decreed'."

So she conceived him, and withdr

(SURA MARYAM) Holy Qur'ân 19: 16-22

At the present moment a billion Muslims throughout the world accept the Immaculate Conception of Jesus (pbuh) on the authority of Muhammed (pbuh) alone. Jesus (pbuh), his mother Mary and the whole Christian world can never thank **AI-AMIN** — the Spirit of Truth, enough.

JEWISH RESPONSE TO JESUS

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I (Jesus) have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, but ye would not let me! (HOLY BIBLE) Matthew 23:37

That mighty Messenger of God went after the Jews like a hen after her chickens, but they turned on him like vultures to tear him into pieces. Not satisfied with their relentless assaults and harassment and the eventual attempt on his life¹ they charged his mother for having ill-begotten him in sin.

That they (the Jews) rejected Faith; and they uttered against Mary a grave false charge.

(SURA NISAA) Holy Qur'ân 4: 156

What was that **"grave false charge"**? — The nearest to uttering the actual calumny, Muhummed (pbuh) the true **"Glorifier"** of Jesus (John 16: 13) is made to record.

"O sister of Aaron! thy father was not a man of evil, nor thy mother a woman unchaste!"

SURA MARYAM) Holy Qur'ân 19: 28

1. For a detailed record of how God foiled the Jewish plot on the life of the Messiah, see **"Crucifixion or Cruci-fiction?"**

WHAT SAY THE TALMUDISTS

The Jewish charge of the illegitimacy of Jesus (pbuh) and the adultery of Mary is referred to here as an insinuation of the Jews, questioning Mary's **chastity**. The Holy Qur'ân does not stoop down to even reproducing the actual monstrous slander. Now compare this Qur'ânic terminology with what the erudite and famous Rev. Dummelow, backed by no less than a team of sixteen Christian divines, all Reverends and D.D.s; as to **their** choice of words in recording the calumny of the enemies of Christ:

THE JEWISH TALMUDISTS SAID, 'THE SON OF THE **ADULTERESS**' (I.E. OF THE VIRGIN MARY) BROUGHT MAGIC OUT OF EGYPT. BY CUTTINGS WHICH HE HAD MADE IN HIS FLESH.' 'JESUS PRACTICED MAGIC AND DECEIVED. AND DROVE ISRAEL TO IDOLATRY.' **IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTICE THAT MAHOMET INDIGNANTLY REPUDIATED THESE JEWISH CALUMNIES.**" (Emphasis added)

Dummefow's *Bible Commentary* **page 668**

EVANGELIST DITTOS JEWS

Josh Me Dowell. described as a graduate of Wheaton College and magna cum laude graduate of Talbot Theological Seminary, and who is reputed to have spoken to more than Five million students and faculty at over 550 universities in 53 countries, seems to have done more research than the whole galaxy of Biblical scholars mentioned above, on the subject of the Jewish Talmud regarding the birth of his "Lord."

In his book — **"Evidence that Demands a Verdict,"** just to prove that Jesus (pbuh) was not a myth but a historical person, he quotes extensively from the **Jewish Talmud** without any inhibitions. I give you below a few brief excerpts from pages 85/86 of his book.

"Tol'doth Yeshu. JESUS IS REFERRED TO AS 'BEN PANDERA.' "¹

Yeb.IV3;49a:

"R. SHIMEON BEN AZZAI SAID (CONCERNING JESUS): 'I FOUND A GENEALOGICAL ROLL IN JERUSALEM WHEREIN WAS RECORDED, SUCH-AN-ONE IS A BASTARD OF AN ADULTERESS.' "

Joseph Klausner adds to the above:

"CURRENT EDITIONS OF THE *Mishnah*, ADD: TO SUPPORT THE WORDS OF R. YEHOSHUA' (WHO IN THE SAME *Mishnah*, SAYS: WHAT IS A BASTARD? EVERYONE WHOSE PARENTS ARE LIABLE TO DEATH BY THE BETH DIN). THAT JESUS IS HERE REFERRED TO SEEMS TO BE BEYOND DOUBT..." 5/35

1. **"BEN PANDERA:"** Means – son of Pandera. A Roman soldier alleged by the Jews to have raped Mary to produce her illegitimate offspring. (God forbid!) May he forgive us for even reproducing such blasphemies.

MISSIONARY LOLLS HIS TONGUE

Josh McDowell the great evangelist, **"born-again"** Christian; worshipper of Christ, filled with the Holy Ghost (?) lolls his tongue when quoting calumnies of the enemies against his Lord and God — Jesus! And the Christian world laps it up. His books are bestsellers in Christendom. A taste for Filth and insults has been created in the votaries of Christ. I refuse to quote further from that filthy narration. If Jesus (pbuh) has such devoted friends (?). what need is there for him to have enemies.

Muhummed (pbuh) really was the true Friend, the Comforter, the Helper, the Advocate, the Glorifier, the Testifier of these prophecies in John chapters 14, 15 and 16. Let me repeat the ungrudging tribute of his enemies to this Benefactor of Jesus (pbuh) his mother Mary and humanity at large: **"It is interesting to notice that Mahomet¹ indignantly repudiated these Jewish calumnies."** (Rev. Dummelow and his associates).

1. **"Mahomet":** It is a pity that scholars of Christianity of the highest eminence still misspell the name of the Holy Prophet, even at the end of the twentieth century.

CHAPTER SIX

Extremism Condemned

We will now allow the Spirit of Truth to lay the Ghost of Jewish and Christian extremism, and put the records straight regarding their controversies about the Messiah. The Jews said that Jesus (pbuh) was the illegitimate son of Mary because he could not point a finger to a father. The Christians for the same reason made him into a God and the **"begotten"** son of God. Just one verse to debunk this lie!

O People of the Book!

Do not go to extremes in your religion: nor say of Allah anything but the truth.

Verily, Christ¹ Jesus the son of Mary was no more than a messenger of Allah, and His Word which he bestowed upon Mary,

And a Spirit proceeding from Him:

so believe in Allah and his messengers.

Say not "Trinity": desist: it will be better for you:

For your Allah is One God:

Glory be to Him:

(Far Exalted is He) above having

a son. To Him belongs all

things in the heavens and the earth.

And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs.

(SURA NISAA) Holy Qur'ân 4:171

1. Christ: In the Arabic text of the Holy Qur'ân the word is **Masih**, which is the same as the Hebrew word Messiah.

Note 657/6 on the above verse

Just as a foolish servant may go wrong by excess of zeal for his master, so in religion people's excesses may lead them to blasphemy or a spirit the very opposite of religion.

The Jewish excesses in the direction of formalism, racialism, exclusiveness, and rejection of Christ Jesus have been denounced in many places in the Holy Qur'ân.

Here the Christian attitude is condemned, which raises Jesus to an equality with God; in some cases venerates Mary almost to idolatry; attributes a physical son to God; and invents the doctrine of the Trinity, opposed to all reason, which according to the Athanasian Creed, unless a man believes, he is doomed to hell for ever."

The attributes of Christ are mentioned here:

1. That he was the son of a woman, Mary, and therefore a man.
2. But an apostle, a man with a mission from God, and therefore entitled to honour.
3. A Word bestowed on Mary, for he was created by God's word "Be" (**kun**) and he was. H.Q. 3:59.

4. A spirit proceeding from God, but not God: his life and his mission were more limited than in the case of some other apostles, though we must pay equal honour to him as a man of God.

The doctrines of Trinity, equality with God and sonship, are repudiated as blasphemies. God is independent of all needs and has no need of a son to manage His affairs."

Abdullah Yusuf Ali

NOTHING FROM SELF

You give this Spirit of Truth (Muhummed pbuh) too much credit, when you allege that he wrote the preceding verses and further authored more than six thousand other verses of the Noble Qur'ân.

He cries to us again and again in the Book of God, that this is not my handiwork — **"IT IS NO LESS THAN AN INSPIRATION SENT DOWN TO HIM** (Muhummed)" (Holy Qur'ân 53:4). Exactly as it was prophesied by Jesus (pbuh)

... for be shall not speak from himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak...

(HOLY BIBLE) John 16: 13

CHRISTIAN "TRILEMMA"

All the testification and glorification by this **"another Comforter,"** does not placate the Christians. Because Muhummed (pbuh) did not pander to their prejudices. To them glorification meant to deify Jesus (pbuh) — to make him into a God. Instead of solving their **dilemma** whether Jesus (pbuh) "died" on the cross as a man, or as a God? They have now invented a **trilemma**. A word not to be found in any dictionary in the world. Josh McDowell the Travelling Representative for Campus Crusade for Christ International, in his book — **"Evidence that Demands a Verdict,"** actually uses his new inspired (by the "Holy Ghost"?) conundrum¹ for his chapter 7 — **"TRILEMMA - Lord, Liar or Lunatic?"** You have now guessed it! The three L's! He wants his readers to answer whether Jesus Christ is your **LORD** (God), or was he a **LIAR**, or a **LUNATIC**? Very ingenious, you will agree! No Muslim could utter that Jesus Christ was a liar, or a lunatic: then what? Its more than any dilemma! It's actually blasphemy of the highest degree. But he is blinded by his preconceived notions. Roger Bacon, the philosopher who was bom too soon, rightly said: "IT IS EASIER FOR A MAN TO BURN DOWN HIS OWN HOUSE THAN TO GET RID OF HIS PREJUDICES."

1. Conundrum: A puzzling problem or question admitting of no satisfactory solution.

WISDOM OF THE CHILD

To say of any man that he is God, the **"begotten"** son of God, or that his father is God; is not an honour but an insult. A French peasant understood this distinction better than the millions of erudite Christian scholars walking the earth today.

It is reputed that Louis XV, King of France was a very lecherous person. No woman was safe from his debaucheries. After his death, when his son was well settled on the throne, a rumour spread around Paris that an exact duplicate of the young king was seen roaming about the capital. The King was naturally intrigued to see his double. It did not take the King's men long **to** have the rustic from the countryside presented before the King. The King was amused by the stark resemblance to himself and his late father. He was tickled to have a dig at the poor farmer. He politely asked. "Did your mother ever visit Paris during my father's reign?" **"No!"** the rustic replied, **"But my father did!"** This was a death-knell for the King, but he had asked for it!

DONT GO TO EXTREMES

The rank hatred of the Jews which lead them to slander Jesus and his mother is bad, and the over infatuation of the Christians for Christ is also bad. Muhammed (pbuh) the Messenger of God condemned both these extremes, and elevated Jesus (pbuh) to his true status, as the Messiah, a great prophet and reformer. **Love him, respect him, revere him, follow him; but do not worship him! For worship is due to God alone, the Father in heaven: ALLAH!**

This is true glorification — for,

"He shall glorify me!" John 16:14

Historically, morally and prophetically, Muhammed (pbuh) the last and Final Messenger of God, "The Spirit of Truth," is the only one to guide mankind into all truth. He is pre-eminently the Natural Successor to Christ.

Your further inquiries, comments and criticisms are welcome. Don't just sit there, for the sake of God, act now!

AHMED DEEDAT

(Servant of Islam)

EPILOGUE

Dear reader, it has been suggested that some Christian propagandists might lure you from your exposition of the preceding pages, by dangling before you the "Pentecostal" experience.

Pentecost was a Jewish festival day celebrated on the Fiftieth day after the beginning of corn harvesting. The Jews gathered in Jerusalem from far and wide for the feast Peter with "the Eleven"¹ together with others were in one place, when suddenly they heard the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them where they were sitting. This electrified the people and they began to "speak in tongues," in dialects and languages foreign to themselves. Some marvelled while others mocked, saying, "They're drunk, that's all!" It reminded them of the "babbling" at Babel (Genesis 11:9).

The Christian missionaries contend that that was the fulfilment of what Jesus (pbuh) had prophesied in John chapters 14, 15 and 16. Astounding as the whole drama may sound, Peter, the one, the Master had appointed to "feed my lambs . . . feed my sheep" (John 21: 15-16), rose to defend the disciples, saying. "These men are not drunk! It's much too early for that! People don't get drunk so early in the morning!"

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel .. ²

(HOLY BIBLE) Acts 2: 16

Pentecost was the fulfillment of the prophecy of the prophet Joel and not of any predictions of Jesus (pbuh). Christendom believes that Peter was inspired to record the same. Both obviously tickled by the Holy Ghost! Not a single word³ is recorded anywhere as to what these apostles of Christ had babbled or murmured on Pentecost day, yet as to the Comforter, he was to guide mankind "into all Truth!" Proving once again that the Comforter is not the Holy Ghost!

1. "The Eleven" (Acts 2: 14). No Bible commentator dare discuss as to who these eleven were, because Judas the traitor was long since dead. The Holy Ghost failed to inform Luke. That at best there could only be ten beside Peter and not eleven!
2. "Prophet Joel:" In "The New English Bible." published by The Bible Societies in association with the Oxford University Press in their fourteenth impression of 1984, expunged the name JOEL, without an apology. He was too insignificant (?) a prophet, having written only two pages in a thousand of the Bible. If Christendom can edit out names of their own prophets, what will they not do to names like Ishmael and Ahmed?
3. On the contrary, hear what Muhammed (pbuh) the Comforter uttered in his trances in fulfilment of the prophecies. See The Holy Qur'ân online.



THE END

***Dr Maurice Bucaille, the French author of the book "*Bible, the Qur'ân and Science*"; wrote a sub-chapter entitled "Jesus's Last Dialogues. The Paraclete of John's Gospel". He questions the notion of the comforter being the Holy Ghost. He does not set out to prove that the Comforter was any specific historical person. But he rules out the possibility of it being a Ghost; or anything else than a man. The chapter is very small, and it is worth reading as a post-conclusion to this great book by Ahmed Deedat. [Click here](#) to read the chapter.**